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By Leonor S. Tuck
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Date: December 17, 2003

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): **Hongfeng Yin, et al.,**

Group Art Unit: 1723

Serial No.: **10/085,598**

Examiner: **Ernest G. Therkorn**

Filed: **February 26, 2002**

Title: **"Mobile Phase Gradient Generation Microfluidic Device"**

Atty Docket: **10010924-1**

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2003 subjecting Claims 1-38 to restriction in the above-identified patent application.

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C 121 between the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-20, 26-27, 29-31, and 36-38, drawn to a separating device,
classified in class 210, subclass 198.2

Group II: Claims 21-25, 28, and 32-35, drawn to a method of separating ,
classified in class 210, subclass 656.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the Group I set of claims (1-20, 26-27, 29-31 and 36-38) with traverse because the method of claim 21 recites with apparatus of claim 1, therefore, it is asserted that no burdensome search will be required.

Applicant hereby elects the species represented in Fig. 1 and the following claims
1-20, 26-27, 29-31, and 36-38.

Respectfully submitted,

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